CLAIMS

(1) A sheet transport mechanism, comprising:

a rotation roller;

a movable member; and

a sheet transport guide for guiding toward and/or away from the rotation roller a sheet to be transported between the rotation roller and the movable member, the sheet transport guide including an elastic member and having a portion connected to the movable member,

wherein the sheet transport guide applies elastic force to the movable member so that the movable member is elastically biased toward the rotation roller.

(2) A sheet transport mechanism according to claim 1, wherein the elastic member is a torsion coil spring having first and second arms for guiding a sheet to be transported.

(3) A sheet transport mechanism according to claim 2, wherein the movable member is a driven roller that is rotated in association with rotation of the rotation roller.

(4) A sheet transport mechanism according to claim 3, wherein the driven roller is supported by the first arm of the torsion coil spring.

(5) A sheet transport mechanism according to claim 2, wherein the movable member is a separation pad for feeding one sheet at a time.

(6) A sheet transport mechanism according to claim 5, wherein the separation pad is supported by a coil portion of the torsion coil spring.

(7) A sheet transport mechanism according to claim 4, wherein a plurality of the movable members are aligned approximately parallel to a shaft of the rotation roller, and wherein each of the movable members is provided with the sheet transport guide.

(8) A sheet transport mechanism according to claim 7, wherein the sheet transport guide positioned at a predetermined reference position is adjusted to have a larger elastic force than any one of the sheet transport guides positioned at positions distant from the reference position have.

(9) A sheet transport mechanism according to claim 8, wherein the sheet transport guides are adjusted to have respective elastic forces that become progressively smaller with distance from the reference position.

(10) A sheet transport mechanism according to claim 8, wherein the reference position is located in an approximately central part of the shaft of the rotation roller.

(11) A sheet transport mechanism according to claim 8, wherein the reference position is located in either one of opposite end portions of the shaft of the rotation roller.